

Message Text

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SUBJ: ECE - 72ND SESSION OF ECE COAL COMMITTEE, GENEVA,
SEPT. 20 - 24, 1976

REF: (A) GENEVA 7356; (B) GENEVA 7392

1. SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF ECE COAL COMMITTEE, SEPT. 20 - 24, 1976, ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANCE, GDR, FRG, GREECE, HUNGARY, ITALY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UKRANIAN SSR, USSR, U.K., U.S., AND YUGOSLAVIA. CHAIRMAN WEGRZYK (POLAND), PRESENTED AGENDA (ECE/COAL/17), WHICH WAS APPROVED, AND PROPOSAL FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR COMING TWO YEAR TERM. KURNOSOV (USSR) NOMINATED SCHEID (FRG) AS CHAIRMAN AND WEGRZYK (POLAND) AS VICE CHAIRMAN FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL PRACTICE ALTERNATING EAST-WEST CHAIRMANSHIP. THESE WERE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

2. SECRETARIAT REPORTED ON DOCUMENT COAL/R.23 COVERING MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE XXXI SESSION OF ECE, POINTING UP THE CALL FOR MORE JOINT RESEARCH WORK AND BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND CALLED ATTENTION TO DECISIONS B, C, D, AND G (XXXI). (SEE REFTELS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF DECISION B (XXXI) RE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY.) RE DECISION G (XXXI) SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCED INFORMALLY THAT 2ND AD HOC MEETING ON ENERGY ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD PRIOR TO 32ND SESSION OF THE

COMMISSION.

3. DOC. R.24 (COAL SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 1975)
INTRODUCED BY STEFANSKI (SECRETARIAT). DECORN (FRANCE)
CONGRATULATED THE SECRETARIAT ON THE PAPER AND CONFIRMED THE PRONOUNCED GROWTH OF COAL CONSUMPTION IN THE ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR IN HIS COUNTRY. MUSZKIET (POLAND) CONGRATULATED THE SECRETARIAT ON THE REVIEW ADDING THAT IN POLAND ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE LONG TERM; THAT PRODUCTION IN 1976 INCLUDES 39X106 TONS OF LIGNITE AND THAT 185 TO 186 MILLION TONS OF HARD COAL, A 6.7 PERCENT GAIN, ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRODUCED IN 1977.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF COAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES WERE GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ROMANIA, GDR, U.K., USSR, UKRANIAN SSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, YUGOSLAVIA, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, U.S., HUNGARY, POLAND, BELGIUM, AND FRANCE.

5. USSR REPRESENTATIVE SAID COAL PLAYS A LEADING ROLE IN HIS COUNTRY'S ENERGY ECONOMY, ACCOUNTING FOR 38.0 PERCENT. ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF SOVIET COAL, HOWEVER, LIES IN THE EAST. IN 1975, 800.1 MILLION METRIC TONS (OF WHICH 30 PERCENT WAS SURFACE-MINED) WERE PRODUCED. USSR REP. STATED THAT THE AVERAGE DEPTH OF MINES IN THE DONETS BASIN WAS 540 METERS; 39 PITS ARE 800 METERS DEEP AND SOME ARE 1,260 METERS DEEP. SAFETY REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT TEMPERATURES OF OVER 26 DEGREES C REQUIRE COOLING. GAS EMISSION REACHES UP TO 10 CUBIC METERS PER TON OF COAL MINES. ABOUT 9.1 MILLION TONS OF COAL WERE PRODUCED BY HYDRAULIC MINING. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, 355 MILLION TONS OF COAL WERE PRODUCED AND OUTPUT IS EXPECTED TO REACH 815 MILLION TONS FOR THE YEAR. IN 1980, IT IS TO REACH 985 MILLION TONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS SOV. DEL. SAID MINER PRODUCTIVITY IN HYDRAULIC UNCLASSIFIED

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MINING WAS 200 TONS PER MAN PER MONTH.

6. DECORN (FRANCE) COMMENTED ON DOC WP 1/28, ACTIVITIES OF WORKING PARTY ON COAL TRADE. HE SAID SUCH REVIEWS ARE USEFUL IN PRESENTING SUPPLY/DEMAND RELATIONSHIPS.

7. SECRETARIAT (BRENDOW) REPORTED ON STATUS OF ECE PAPER "PERSPECTIVES OF COAL IN THE ECE REGION". ONLY A SIMPLIFIED VERSION WOULD BE AVAILABLE BECAUSE DATA ON EASTERN EUROPE ARE NOT AVAILABLE. PART I, WESTERN EUROPE, AND PART II, NORTH AMERICA, WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. FIVE MAIN CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM THE DATA STUDIED:

1) GOVERNMENTS WILL RELY ON COAL TO REPLACE GAS AND OIL FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION;

2) COAL CONSUMPTION WILL DOUBLE IN THE ECE REGION;

3) THE SHARE OF COAL IN THE EUROPEAN ENERGY BALANCE HOWEVER WILL GO FROM 28 PERCENT TO 26 OR 25 PERCENT FROM 1975 TO 1985;

4) UNCERTAINTY OF COAL FOR THE LONGER TERM MUST BE CLARIFIED FOR INVESTMENT TO TAKE PLACE: AND

5) THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN WORLD COAL TRADE OF 33 TO 50 PERCENT.

8. QUESTION ON HOW INCREASED TRADE IS TO BE CONDUCTED BROUGHT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE WORKING PARTY ON COAL TRADE CONSIDER THE QUESTION. TO A SECOND QUESTION ON THE SHARE OF SURFACE MINING, THE SECRETARIAT ESTIMATED THAT 1/3 OF THE COAL (ON AN ENERGY BASIS) WAS TO BE SURFACE MINED. IRON AND STEEL AND ELECTRIC POWER SECTORS WILL ACCOUNT FOR 80 PERCENT OF THE COAL CONSUMED IN WEST EUROPE AND 90 PERCENT IN NORTH AMERICA IN 1985.

9. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION ON SELECTED MINING PROBLEMS:

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THE COAL COMMITTEE, ACTING ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE AD HOC MEETING ON OPENCAST MINES, DECIDED TO SET UP A NEW SUBSIDIARY BODY, A GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PROBLEMS OF OPENCAST COAL MINES, TO MEET FEB. 14 - 16, 1977, AND TO HOLD ITS SECOND SESSION IN THE GDR DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1978 JOINTLY WITH THE SYMPOSIUM ON SELECTED PROBLEMS IN OPENCAST COAL MINING. THE COMMITTEE INVITED ALL COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW GROUP. A SPECIAL EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD TAKE ACTIVE PART WAS ADDRESSED TO THE U.S. DELEGATE BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN, WHO NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF SURFACE MINING IN U.S. COAL PRODUCTION. US RESPONSE WAS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF SURFACE MINING AND TO TAKE NOTE OF THE COMMITTEE'S DESIRE FOR ACTIVE US PARTICIPATION. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION AMONG US AUTHORITIES THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ADVISED WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN.

10. THERE FOLLOWED:

A) REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PRODUCTIVITY AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS (REPORTED

BY ITS SOVIET CHAIRMAN) (COAL/GE.18);

B) REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL MINING RESEARCH INSTITUTES (COAL/GE.4/4);

C) REPORT ON THE SYMPOSIUM ON GASIFICATION AND LIQUIFICATION OF COAL (COAL/SEM.3/2);

D) REPORT ON THE SEMINAR ON TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF LOW-CALORIE FUELS (COAL/SEM. 4/2); AND

E) REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE UTILIZATION AND PREPARATION OF SOLID FUELS (COAL/GE. 3/8).

11. THE COMMITTEE HEARD A REPORT OF THE POLISH DELEGATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM COAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES, TO BE HELD AT KATOWICE, POLAND. 18 - 22 OCTOBER 1976. THE POLISH DELEGATION NOTED THAT PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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CEDINGS WERE MOVING ALONG SATISFACTORILY. HE SAID THAT WORK WAS BEING COORDINATED BETWEEN TWO MINISTRIES IN POLAND AND THAT MR. WEGRZYK WAS ACTING IN A LIAISON CAPACITY BETWEEN THE ECE AND THE POLISH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. A TOTAL OF 69 REPORTS WERE TO BE GIVEN SPANNING SIX TOPICS.

12. THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL STATISTICS THIRTEENTH SESSION (COAL/GE.2/8) AND THE REPORTS OF OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO THE COAL INDUSTRY. REPORTS WERE HEARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION COAL MINES COMMITTEE'S 10TH SESSION AND FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CMEA (COMECON) STANDING COMMISSION ON THE COAL INDUSTRY.

13. THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION WITH THE APPROVAL OF ITS WORK PROGRAM AND THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SESSIONS.CATTO

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